

## Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Interior

## § 773.3

demonstrate that the amount of coal to be removed is not the total reserve, but is a sampling of a larger reserve.

(4) An explanation as to why other means of exploration, such as core drilling, are not adequate to determine the quality of the coal and/or the feasibility of developing a surface coal mining operation.

[53 FR 52949, Dec. 29, 1988]

### § 772.15 Public availability of information.

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, all information submitted to the regulatory authority under this part shall be made available for public inspection and copying at the local offices of the regulatory authority closest to the exploration area.

(b) The regulatory authority shall keep information confidential if the person submitting it requests in writing, at the time of submission, that it be kept confidential and the information concerns trade secrets or is privileged commercial or financial information relating to the competitive rights of the persons intending to conduct coal exploration.

(c) Information requested to be held as confidential under paragraph (b) of this section shall not be made publicly available until after notice and opportunity to be heard is afforded persons both seeking and opposing disclosure of the information.

## PART 773—REQUIREMENTS FOR PERMITS AND PERMIT PROCESSING

Sec.

773.1 Scope and purpose.

773.3 Information collection.

773.4 Requirements to obtain permits.

773.5 Regulatory coordination with requirements under other laws.

773.6 Public participation in permit processing.

773.7 Review of permit applications.

773.8 General provisions for review of permit application information and entry of information into AVS.

773.9 Review of applicant, operator, and ownership and control information.

773.10 Review of permit history.

773.11 Review of compliance history.

773.12 Permit eligibility determination.

773.13 Unanticipated events or conditions at remaining sites.

773.14 Eligibility for provisionally issued permits.

773.15 Written findings for permit application approval.

773.16 Performance bond submittal.

773.17 Permit conditions.

773.19 Permit issuance and right of renewal.

773.21 Initial review and finding requirements for improvidently issued permits.

773.22 Notice requirements for improvidently issued permits.

773.23 Suspension or rescission requirements for improvidently issued permits.

773.25 Who may challenge ownership or control listings and findings.

773.26 How to challenge an ownership or control listing or finding.

773.27 Burden of proof for ownership or control challenges.

773.28 Written agency decision on challenges to ownership or control listings or findings.

AUTHORITY: 30 U.S.C. 1201 *et seq.*, 16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*, 16 U.S.C. 661 *et seq.*, 16 U.S.C. 703 *et seq.*, 16 U.S.C. 668a *et seq.*, 16 U.S.C. 469 *et seq.*, and 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*

SOURCE: 48 FR 44391, Sept. 28, 1983, unless otherwise noted.

### § 773.1 Scope and purpose.

This part provides minimum requirements for permits and permit processing and covers obtaining and reviewing permits; coordinating with other laws; public participation; permit decision and notification; permit conditions; and permit term and right of renewal.

### § 773.3 Information collection.

(a) Under the Paperwork Reduction Act, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has approved the information collection requirements of this part. Regulatory authorities will use this information in processing surface coal mining permit applications. Persons intending to conduct such operations must respond to obtain a benefit. A Federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OMB clearance number for this part is 1029-0115.

(b) We estimate that the public reporting burden for this part will average 36 hours per response, including time spent reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed,

#### § 773.4

#### 30 CFR Ch. VII (7–1–01 Edition)

and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of these information collection requirements, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Information Collection Clearance Officer, Room 210, 1951 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20240. Please refer to OMB Control Number 1029–0115 in any correspondence.

[65 FR 79663, Dec. 19, 2000]

##### **§ 773.4 Requirements to obtain permits.**

(a) *All operations.* On and after 8 months from the effective date of a permanent regulatory program within a State, no person shall engage in or carry out any surface coal mining operations, unless such person has first obtained a permit issued by the regulatory authority except as provided for in paragraph (b) of this section. A permittee need not renew the permit if no surface coal mining operations will be conducted under the permit and solely reclamation activities remain to be done. Obligations established under a permit continue until completion of surface coal mining and reclamation operations, regardless of whether the authorization to conduct surface coal mining operations has expired or has been terminated, revoked, or suspended.

(b) *Continuation of initial program operations.* (1) If a State program receives final disapproval under part 732 of this chapter, including judicial review of the disapproval, existing surface coal mining and reclamation operations may continue pursuant to the provisions of subchapter B of this chapter and section 502 of the Act until promulgation of a complete Federal program for the State. During this period, no new permits for surface coal mining and reclamation operations shall be issued by the State. Permits that lapse during this period may continue in full force and effect within the specified permit area until promulgation of a Federal program for the State.

(2) Except for coal preparation plants separately authorized to operate under 30 CFR 785.21(e), a person conducting

surface coal mining operations, under a permit issued or amended by the regulatory authority in accordance with the requirements of section 502 of the Act, may conduct such operations beyond the period prescribed in paragraph (a) of this section if—

(i) Not later than 2 months following the effective date of a permanent regulatory program, regardless of litigation contesting that program, an application for a permanent regulatory program permit is filed for any operation to be conducted after the expiration of 8 months from such effective date in accordance with the provisions of the regulatory program;

(ii) The regulatory authority has not yet rendered an initial administrative decision approving or disapproving the permit; and

(iii) The surface coal mining and reclamation operation is conducted in compliance with the requirements of the Act, subchapter B of this chapter, applicable State statutes and regulations, and all terms and conditions of the initial program authorization or permit.

(3) No new initial program permits may be issued after the effective date of a State program unless the application was received prior to such date.

(c) *Continued operations under Federal program permits.* (1) A permit issued by the Director pursuant to a Federal program for a State shall be valid under any superseding State program approved by the Secretary.

(2) The Federal permittee shall have the right to apply to the State regulatory authority for a State permit to supersede the Federal permit.

(3) The State regulatory authority may review a permit issued pursuant to the superseded Federal program to determine that the requirements of the Act and the approved State program are not violated by the Federal permit, and to the extent that the approved State program contains additional requirements not contained in the Federal program for the State, the State regulatory authority shall—

(i) Inform the permittee in writing;

(ii) Provide the permittee an opportunity for a hearing;